

Application No. 10/075,145
Attorney Docket No. 12472US01

REMARKS

The present application includes claims 1-119. Claims 1-26, 32-57, and 63-119 were allowed by the Examiner. Claims 27-31 and 58-62 were rejected. By this Amendment, claim 58 has been amended.

Claims 27-31 and 58-62 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lehtimaki, U.S. Patent No. 6,125,120. Lehtimaki teaches transmission equipment for an interexchange connection. As shown in Figure 1 and discussed beginning at Col. 6, Line 15, Lehtimaki teaches communication between a first mobile radio station MS1 and a second mobile radio station MS2. More specifically, a signal from the MS1 is received at a first base station BTS1 and then passed to a first transcoder unit TRAU1. The TRAU1 passes the signal to the first transcoding and rate adaptation compression unit TRACU1, as recited beginning at Col. 8, Line 5. The TRACU1 passes the signal to the TRACU2 which relays the signal to the TRAU2 and to the second base station BTS2. From the BTS2, the signal is relayed to the MS2.

Lehtimaki teaches that the TRACU1 and TRACU2 are connected sequentially or in series, as shown in Figure 1 and as described specifically at Col. 8, Lines 39-44. Lehtimaki does not teach that that the TRACU1 and TRACU2 are connected in parallel or in tandem.

Independent claim 27 recites “a first path connecting the first and second processors in tandem during a connection between the first and second telephones.”

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Although the Examiner asserts that the TRACU1 and TRACU2 satisfy the limitations of the processors recited in claim 27, Lehtimaki only teaches connecting the TRACU1 and TRACU2 in series and not in tandem. Consequently, the Applicant respectfully submits that claim 27 and its dependent claims 28-31 are free of Lehtimaki and allowable.

Independent claim 58 has been amended to recite that the first processor and the second processor are connected in tandem. Consequently, claim 58 and its respective dependent claims 59-62 are also respectfully submitted to be allowable.

Alternatively, if the Examiner finds that the usage of the language "in parallel" rather than "in tandem" in claims 27 and 58 would be preferable, the Applicant would be happy to consider the change.

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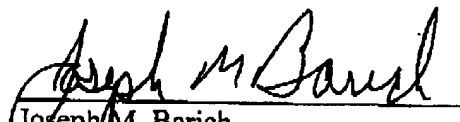
CONCLUSION

If the Examiner has any questions or the Applicant can be of any assistance, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the Applicant at the number below.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any necessary fees or credit any overpayment to the Deposit Account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Account No. 13-0017.

Respectfully submitted,

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